



Public Information Office
United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

September 13, 2011

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Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to Honor Memory of Senior Judge Thomas G. Nelson

SAN FRANCISCO – Judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit will convene in a special session Friday in Boise, Idaho, to celebrate the memory of the late Senior Circuit Judge Thomas G. Nelson. The special session will be held in the Garden Level Auditorium, West Wing 02, of the Idaho State Capitol Building, 700 West Jefferson Street, beginning at 2 p.m. The event is open to the public.

Judge Sidney R. Thomas of Billings, Montana, will preside over the session and make opening remarks. Also scheduled to speak are Ninth Circuit Judges Richard C. Tallman of Seattle, Washington, Barry G. Silverman of Phoenix, Arizona, and N. Randy Smith of Pocatello, Idaho; Justice Joel Horton of the Idaho Supreme Court; Boise attorney John Rosholt, a former law partner of Judge Nelson; and Kyle Nelson and Dr. Hal T. Nelson, two of the judge's sons.

Judge Nelson died peacefully at his home in Boise on May 4, 2011. He was 74. An Idaho native, he was nominated to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals by President H.W. Bush and confirmed by the Senate in 1990. He served as an active judge until 2003 and continued hearing cases as a senior judge through 2009. At the time of his death, Judge Nelson ranked 23rd in seniority among the court's active and senior judges.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals hears appeals of cases decided by federal trial courts and certain executive branch administrative agencies in nine western states and two Pacific Island jurisdictions. The court reported 11,982 appeals filed in fiscal year 2010.

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